

# **APPENDIX B**

Task Force correspondence





Tony Knowles, Governor

## **Southeast Regional Timber Task Force**

Doug Roberts, Cochair (907) 874-2381 𐄇 Jeff Meucci, Cochair (907) 772-4669 𐄇 Kathleen S. Morse, State Partner (907) 465-2018

October 2, 1996

The Honorable Dan Glickman  
Secretary of the Department of Agriculture  
Administration Building  
Fourteenth Street and Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Glickman,

I have been designated chairman of the Governor's Southeast Regional Timber Task Force. The Task Force was enacted to respond to the region's declining timber industry and to the economic uncertainty faced by Alaskan families caught in the middle of a debate over the future management of the Tongass National Forest. The task force will be working cooperatively to develop a business plan for a regional timber industry that is economically viable and acceptable to a majority of Southeast Alaskan residents. We may also be developing recommendations for mitigating the impacts of mill closures on families, communities, and businesses. For your information, I have enclosed a draft of our mission statement and a list of task force members. As you can see, the group includes the mayors of several Southeast communities and represents a broad spectrum of interests. In order for us to be successful we need your help and full cooperation.

The task force convened immediately and, although we represent diverse interests, we quickly identified a fundamental objective that is shared by all: There is an urgent need to bring the Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) to conclusion. Because it serves as the basis from which subsequent resource management decisions are made and because it sets the overall parameters within which many industries must conform, the Tongass plan must be finalized without delay so that residents of Southeast Alaska can plan for their future.

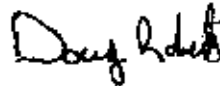
On behalf of several communities and working families in Southeast Alaska, we request that the Forest Service make a firm commitment to the completion of TLMP by November 15, 1996. We also ask that the Record of Decision be finalized in terms that will minimize the risk of litigation. Southeast Alaskans are resilient and resourceful and are ready to meet the challenge of business competition on an international scale. We cannot, however, expect our economy to thrive or even sustain itself when so many critical variables remain unresolved by the primary manager of our resource base.

October 2, 1996

Page 2

I sincerely hope that you will give careful consideration to this request. We recommitted to working together to develop a regional strategy for the timber industry and to respond to the economic hardships of our neighbors, but we need to build our efforts upon a solid platform. Your full cooperation in ensuring the expeditious completion of an accurate and lawful TLMP is essential to our ability to move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Doug Roberts  
Chair

cc: The Honorable Ted Stevens  
The Honorable Frank Murkowski  
The Honorable Don Young



Tony Knowles, Governor

## **Southeast Regional Timber Task Force**

Doug Roberts, Cochair (907) 874-2381 ⌘ Jeff Meucci, Cochair (907) 772-4669 ⌘ Kathleen S. Morse, State Partner (907) 465-2018

February 17, 1997

Mr. Phil Janik  
Regional Forester  
USDA Forest Service  
P.O. Box 21628  
Juneau, AK 99802-1628

Dear Mr. Janik:

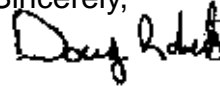
Members of the Southeast Alaska Timber Task Force greatly appreciate the cooperation both you and your staff have offered us. Due in part to your assistance, we have made considerable progress toward our goal — as set forth by Governor Tony Knowles — to develop a business plan for a viable and sustainable timber industry in Southeast Alaska. We have two additional items we would like you to consider to assist us in moving forward with our work.

The Tongass Land Management Plan, of course, is a big factor in determining the extent to which the timber industry will continue to operate in Southeast Alaska. As the Record of Decision is signed on TLMP, we respectfully request that a concerted effort be made to provide the Task Force with a copy of this document and the Executive Summary at the earliest possible opportunity. This request, in the form of a motion, was passed unanimously at our December 12th meeting.

At the January 17th Task Force meeting, you mentioned that Forest Service Chief Dombeck was considering sending his Chief of Staff, Mr. Pendalfi to Alaska to gain first-hand information about our resources and resource management issues. The Task Force wholeheartedly supports and encourages the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service to follow-through with this idea. Furthermore, on behalf of the Southeast Regional Timber Task Force, I am formally requesting that a portion of Mr. Pendalfi's visit be dedicated to visiting Southeast Alaska, talking with local residents, and personally experiencing the unique resources and economy of the region. Finally, if I or other Task Force members can be of assistance in accommodating Mr. Pendalfi in this venture, please feel free to contact any of us directly.

Your continued assistance is appreciated. We wish to thank you in advance for your attention and action in support of these requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Doug Roberts  
Chairman



Tony Knowles, Governor

## **Southeast Regional Timber Task Force**

Doug Roberts, Cochair (907) 874-2381 ⌘ Jeff Meucci, Cochair (907) 772-4669 ⌘ Kathleen S. Morse, State Partner (907) 465-2018

February 17, 1997

Dr. Norm Hinman  
Partnership Development  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory  
1617 Cole Boulevard  
Golden, CO 80401-3393

Dear Dr. Hinman:

The Southeast Regional Timber Task Force was apprised of your recent letter to Ms. Kathleen Morse at our January 17th meeting. Specifically, you offered to complete a pre-feasibility study for the use of Southeast Alaskan biomass for fuel ethanol at no cost to the Task Force. We appreciate the time and effort you have already spent in introducing us to this potential opportunity and believe the analysis you propose will be of considerable benefit to the collective good of the region. Therefore, the Task Force membership has endorsed the aforementioned study with unanimous support.

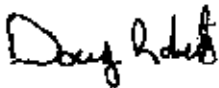
I understand that you have begun a dialogue with Ketchikan Pulp Company and are evaluating the potential for converting the pulp mill operations into an ethanol production facility. While this is certainly a logical place to start, we are hopeful that this study will not be limited to one location or facility. Ultimately, enough basic information about the economics of ethanol production and in-state

markets will be provided so that a number of communities in the region can examine the feasibility and suitability of the process to their own situation.

I know you have already made many contacts throughout Southeast Alaska. However, I or other Task Force members can be of assistance please feel free to contact any of us directly. Also, for your information, I am aware that Representative Bill Williams of Saxman has been alerted to this topic and is very interested in following your efforts as they progress. Enclosed you will find names and contact numbers for Task Force members and Rep. Williams.

Thank you for taking the time and effort to introduce this concept to Southeast Alaska and to the Task Force membership. We are looking forward to our continued involvement with you and your staff in exploring opportunities for fuel ethanol production in the Southeast Alaska region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Doug Roberts  
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: Southeast Regional Timber Task Force



Tony Knowles, Governor

## **Southeast Regional Timber Task Force**

Doug Roberts, Cochair (907) 874-2381 ⌘ Jeff Meucci, Cochair (907) 772-4669 ⌘ Kathleen S. Morse, State Partner (907) 465-2018

September 26, 1996

The Honorable Don Young  
United States Representative  
2331 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0201

Dear Representative Young:

I have been appointed Chairman of a Southeast Regional Timber Task Force established today in response to the most recent decline in the region's timber industry and the prolonged economic disruption faced by Alaskan families caught in the middle of a debate over the future management of the Tongass National Forest. A draft mission statement for the task force is enclosed along with a list of members. As you can see, the group includes the mayors of several Southeast communities and represents a broad spectrum of interests. The task force will work cooperatively to develop a business plan for a regional timber industry that is economically viable and acceptable to a majority of Southeast Alaskan residents. In addition, we are developing recommendations for mitigating the impacts of mill closures on families, communities, and businesses.

The task force convened immediately and this diverse group of individuals quickly came to agreement on two major points. First, an accurate Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) that is in accordance with all applicable laws must be completed as soon as possible, preferably by November 15, 1996. Second, the Southeast region needs additional assistance. The strength of our communities depends on the diversification of our local and regional economy and it is essential to retain a viable, efficient, competitive timber industry as a key element of this diversity. We are asking for your assistance with this immediate concern.

As you know, residents of Ketchikan, Prince of Wales Island and other communities in the southern part of our region are facing the prospect of the loss of a major employer, the Ketchikan pulp mill. This comes at a time when we are especially ill-prepared to compensate for the continued loss of timber-related businesses. The resources of our communities simply cannot adequately mitigate or assist with this economic transition at the same time we are experiencing large-scale losses in our region's economic base.

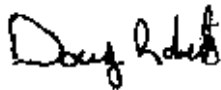


The Honorable Don Young  
September 26, 1996  
Page 2

On behalf of several communities and working families in Southeast Alaska, we respectfully request that additional federal funds totaling \$110 million be secured in this legislative session for immediate distribution to address every community adversely impacted by the prolonged disruption in federal timber supplies and to provide opportunities for stable employment. This funding assistance is needed to 1) mitigate the economic impacts to communities and residents of Ketchikan and the surrounding area of economic influence, including Prince of Wales Island, from the loss of timber manufacturing facilities and associated support industry; and 2) to provide the mechanism for economic recovery with a focus on assisting the timber industry to a more competitive state that maximizes the product recovery from a declining timber supply.

We recognize the timing of this request will make it extraordinarily difficult for you to accommodate, however, circumstances have left us with little alternative to this course of action. Your assistance in our effort is deeply appreciated. I am available to work with you on this important matter. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Doug Roberts  
Regional Timber Task Force Chair